

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An optical receiver for receiving an optical signal, said optical receiver comprising:

first photodetecting means, having a first
5 photosensitive region, for outputting a first electric signal
corresponding to said signal light detected by said first
photosensitive region;

second photodetecting means, having a second
10 photosensitive region disposed externally close to a
periphery of said first photosensitive region, for outputting
a second electric signal corresponding to said signal light
incident on said second photosensitive region;

signal amplifying means for amplifying, according to
a predetermined operating current or operating voltage, said
15 first electric signal outputted from said first
photodetecting means; and

current control means for controlling, according to
said second electric signal outputted from said second
photodetecting means, said operating current or operating
20 voltage supplied to said signal amplifying means.

2. An optical receiver according to claim 1, wherein
said current control means controls said operating current
or operating voltage such that said operating current or
operating voltage is supplied to said signal amplifying means
25 when said second electric signal is at a predetermined
reference value or higher.

3. An optical receiver according to claim 1, wherein said first photosensitive region of said first photodetecting means is substantially circular; and

5 wherein said second photosensitive region of said second photodetecting means has a form surrounding said periphery of said first photosensitive region.

4. An optical receiver according to claim 1, wherein said first photosensitive region of said first photodetecting means is substantially circular; and

10 wherein said second photosensitive region of said second photodetecting means has a plurality of separated detecting portions arranged along said periphery of said first photosensitive region.

15 5. An optical receiver according to claim 1, wherein said first and second photodetecting means are formed on a single substrate.

20 6. An optical receiver according to claim 1, wherein said first and second photodetecting means, said signal amplifying means, and said current control means are formed on a single substrate.

7. A holding apparatus for an optical receiver, said holding apparatus comprising:

25 first holding means for holding an output end for outputting signal light having a divergence greater than said first photosensitive region; and

second holding means for holding said optical receiver

according to claim 1 such that said first photosensitive region is positioned on an optical axis of said signal light.

8. A method of arranging an optical receiver, said method comprising:

5 a first arranging step of arranging an output end for outputting signal light having a divergence greater than said first photosensitive region; and

10 a second arranging step of arranging said optical receiver according to claim 1 such that said first photosensitive region is positioned on an optical axis of said signal light.